



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Mary Kay Sigaty, Chairperson
District 4
Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson
District 1
Calvin Ball
District 2
Jennifer Terrasa
District 3
Greg Fox
District 5

Minutes (approved)
Joint Meeting of County Council and Board of Education
October 7, 2015
8:30 a.m.
C. Vernon Gray Room

In attendance: Mary Kay Sigaty, Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Jennifer Terrasa, Jon Weinstein, Janet Siddiqui, Ann De Lacy, Bess Altwerger, Sandra H. French, Ellen Flynn Giles, Christine E. O'Connor, Cynthia L. Vaillancourt.

Staff: Jessica Feldmark, Craig Glendenning, Renee Foose, Linda Wise, Joel Gallihue, Beverly Davis, Bruce Gist, Frank Eastham.

Ms. Sigaty called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Current and Projected Enrollment: Joel Gallihue reported that current enrollment is 53,571, a total of 141 students, or one-quarter of one percent, more than had been projected. Members discussed growth from neighborhood turnover and new development. Mr. Gallihue estimated that approximately two-thirds of current enrollment growth comes from neighborhood turnover and approximately one-third from new development. Elementary enrollment is 24,282 (as compared to 24,085 projected), and middle school enrollment is 12,714 (as compared to 12,734 projected).

MOE Estimate for FY2017 and Plans for FY2017 Operating Budget Request: Dr. Foose reported that it is too early to tell what amount maintenance of effort will be for the FY2017 budget. Staff is just beginning to work on the proposed operating budget.

Update on Harriet Tubman Building: Dr. Siddiqui reported that the School System is in the process of negotiating a memorandum of understanding with the County Administration. Mr. Gist stated there is a need for suitable space for 120 employees and specialized workshop facilities. Ms. Davis explained there had been a capital project to collocate the maintenance department with warehouse space, but that combined project is no longer being pursued since the warehouse needs are now being addressed through leased space.

Update on Grace's Law and Anti-Bullying Efforts: Mr. Eastham provided an overview of various efforts including professional development and training for staff and school resource officers, focus on the power of the bystander, distinguishing bullying from peer conflict in how

incidents are addressed, and social media policy and digital citizenship initiative. Members requested data from law enforcement on charges brought in association with Grace's Law.

Racial Disparity in Suspension Rates: Dr. Foose explained that the "report" referred to in the recent newspaper article was a letter from her to the Board updating them on suspension data. Mr. Eastham provided an overview of initiatives to reduce suspension rates including quality-first instruction, student engagement, focus on transition years, positive behavior interventions and supports (PBIS), and restorative practices. Dr. Foose discussed efforts to increase diversity in teaching staff and discussed a new partnership with McDaniel College to have HCPSS graduates attend for free, minor in education and get teacher certification, and then return to teach at HCPSS for at least three years. Members requested follow-up information including lists of schools that have and don't have PBIS, disciplinary data broken down by school, hiring and separation report, and data or presentations shared with the African American Community Roundtable and the Council of Elders.

FY2017 Capital Budget, Capital Improvement Program, and Long-Range Master Plan: Dr. Siddiqui and Dr. Foose highlighted the inclusion of funding to begin planning for the 13th high school.

Update on High School #13: Dr. Siddiqui reported that the Board had no new information to share at this point but would be meeting in closed session to discuss land acquisition. Mr. Irvin explained that the Administration has been working closely with the School System on plans for a possible site and negotiations to acquire that site seem to be making positive progress.

At 10:16 a.m., Ms. Sigaty thanked the Board and moved that, in accordance with Section 3—305(b) (3), General Provisions Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the meeting be closed for the purpose of considering the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Council Member Ball seconded the motion. Council Members Mary Kay Sigaty, Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, Jennifer Terrasa, and Jon Weinstein voted in favor.